

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, April 1. 1707.

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I Have undertaken now a new, an unthankful, and a tedious Employment, and this is to enter upon the present and immediate Duty of either Nation to one another, in our new and united Capacity.

I have promis'd this Attempt a long while since, and I foresaw, there would be occasion for it; but I little thought, you would have so direct a Hint to it from the Throne.

Her Majesty has been pleas'd to lay down the Theme of my Discourse, and the Duty of Her united Subjects, and what is the Result, what the Use of all the Victories and Successes over *French* Power abroad, and High-Flying Extravagancies at home; what the Issue of crushing a furious Party, and getting under those that have rid upon the Backs of our Privileges, trod down our Properties and Laws? 'Tis nothing but *Peace*, the old Story, *Peace* and *Union*.

Not like the Nature of that Party, Insultings, Exultations, Revenge and Returns in Kind; not like Tyrants, that when they get the better of their Subjects, double their Tyranny, and satiate their Fury, with the suppressing the People.

See the Difference between the Triumphs of Law and Justice, the Advantages legal Princes, and legally ruling Princes, take of the mastering the Passions and Humours of their People, and the Triumphs of Passion, Pride, and the Lust of furious Tyrants.

Her Majesty has had a vigorous Conflict with the Follies and Madnets of a Race of Men, that have oppos'd their own Happiness; a long Struggle has the QUEEN had with these Men of Fire, and what has been the Dispute? Truly the oddest that ever Nation saw, not as usual in crown'd Heads, against their Liberty, but for it; They would

would have the **QUEEN** be a Tyrant, and Her Majesty won't hear of it; and on the other side, the **QUEEN** would have them be Freeman, enjoy their Liberties, and hand them down untouch'd to their Posterity, and the mad Men won't.

Was ever such a Dispute between Prince and People? Was ever such Self-denying Wretches heard of, that may live in Peace, and cry for Jarring and Discontent; that seek Feud, and covet to be always fighting with one another?

What Pity 'tis, these People cannot be ruin'd by themselves, that they cannot be try'd with their own Choice, fill'd with their own Ways, and rul'd with the Rod of Iron, they strive for!

*'Tis pity they that Liberty despise,  
Should want a Tyrant for their Exercise;  
As they that scorn the Light should never see,  
So they that wou'd be Slaves, shou'd ne're be free.*

But to return to the Point, the **QUEEN** has got the better of these *Furioso's*, and they are all crush'd by the Weight of the Royal Conduct, and their own Intemperance, and what is the Consequence of this Victory? Nothing but Peace, Union and Exhortations to Love, Kindness and Acts of Tenderneſs one to another; intollerable Grievance! That Men should be conquer'd to their own Happiness, made to enjoy themselves and the World, made safe, eſſie and quiet, and all against their Wills! 'Tis a sad Sort of Bondage, I confess, and a Body wou'd fain pity them, if we knew how.

Well, let us see, Gentlemen, how Tyrants in former Times have behaved themselves after Victories over their People?

*Justinian II.* Emperor of the East was depos'd by *Leontius*, and given up to the Fury of the Rabble, who us'd him indeed hardly enough; for they mutilated his Nose, and banish'd him to the Pontick *Chersonesus*, where the People knowing his bloody and barbarous Reign, resolv'd to kill him—— But he made his Escape, and afterwards vanquishing, *Leontius*, obtain'd the Empire again; and how did he use the *Chersonesians*? he murder'd them, Man, Woman and Child, he sent 70000 of them to Sea, in

order to be brought to him to be murder'd in his Sight; but Heaven prevented that bloody Design by a kindly Storm, in which they were all drown'd, and all his own People too.

Here's the Picture of a Tyrant! Here's the Picture of a Prince extending the Prerogative! Here's the Draught of a High-Flying King, or a *Jure Divino* Monarch!

Come, Gentlemen, let us look at home now—— The **QUEEN** has suffer'd all the vile Attempts of a Party, to dethrone Her Power, to question Her Title, then to push Her Majesty upon Oppressions, Violences and Persecutions of Her Subjects—— Vast Struggles and ridiculous Hopes have the Party had to obtain a Tyrant in a **QUEEN** abhorring the Name.

And now they have entirely lost the Day, they are conquer'd, perfectly subdu'd and reduc'd, and what is the Triumph of the Day, Nothing but Peace, Union, Charity, and Kindness?

Was ever such a Use made of Victory? What no Oppressions, no Advantages over the Victims! No, not the least; they that resisted the Nation's Peace, enjoy their equal share of it, as those that assisted in the blessed Work; nay, there is not so much as any Punishment on the guilty! What, has the Rioters in *Scotland*, what, the Wretches that took Arms to destroy our Peace—— Nothing! Nothing but to hold their Hands from Mischief, as we do with mad Men or Children, not a Criminal suffers! So far is this Government from revenging the Disorders, that even Justice is let to sleep, or wink as it were, at the unhappy Creatures that push themselves into its Reach.

See now, Gentlemen, the Difference between a Reign of Moderation, a Monarchy regulated by Law, and directed by the true Pole-Star of Government, the Peoples Good; and the Reins let loose to the Lusts and Ambition of Tyrants.

The soft still Voice of an *English* **QUEEN** is a Direction to all the People of this whole Island, when you get Advantages in Parties, in Cities, in Towns, in Kingdoms, how shall you use your Triumphs? How, but as Her Majesty uses the whole; be satisfy'd in the restoring Justice, obtaining Liberty, securing



ring Privileges, and preserving Right and Peace, and let your Enemies see, you strove for nothing, but what it was your Duty to claim, and those to grant.

If any Gentlemen claim the Signification of this to point to their particular Case, be it in *Scotland* or in *England*, I am sure, the Caution is so well grounded, it can do amiss no where.

Gentlemen of *Coventry*, here's your Pattern! I heartily congratulate your Success in obtaining Justice in Parliament, and being restor'd to a Freedom of Election, and the just Authority of Magistracy, and civil Power in your Streets——Nor am I vain enough to assume a Sort of Prophecy, when I always told you, it would end thus, for the Nature of the thing imply'd it——

The Constitution of *England* could not have stood, if you had not obtain'd Redress; for if Tumult suppresses Magistracy, and the Rabble subdues the Civil Authority, the QUEEN has lost the Scepter, and is nothing more than a Cypher in Government——There could have been no regular Circulation of Power, but the Machine of State would be perfectly confounded, the Gates unhing'd, and Power it self be dissolv'd into meer Confusion and Disorder.

'Twas no difficult Matter therefore to prophecy, that all this would end in Peace and Punishment, as is now come to pass.

But give me leave, Gentlemen, to address my self to you now upon the general Head of the publick Good, in which you have all your Share. Now is your Time to show the Spirit of Gentlemen, of *English* Men, and which is above all, of Christians——You are going to let fall the Title of *English* Men, for that more general Stile of *Britains*; let this Act of Generosity finish your *English* Scene.

Treat your mortify'd Neighbours with a Temper, shall make them blush more than their Defeat; let them see your Quarrel was not at their Persons, but at the Oppressions which you suffer'd, and which, 'risten to one, half of them were accessory to, meerly by Interest, Obligation, or Strength of Party.

Your Liberties are recover'd, your Peace and Privileges secur'd, and all is safe; forget the Injury, forget the Feud, embrace

your Neighbours with Charity and Courtesie, and if they will accept of it with Friendship; this will honour your Cause, vindicate your Principles, fortifie your Interest, convince Strangers, and confound your Enemies.

This is really the true and only just End of all civil Victory; Resentment, at past Injury, is but the Itch of Revenge, and becomes neither the Gentleman nor the *English* Man; Reproach may live for a Week, but Generosity grows with the Year, and lasts to Futurity; the Pleasure of returning an Injury, is a meer Lechery of the Gall, a Gift that is spent in the Act, and vanishes in a Moment: But the Pleasure of forgiving an Injury, touches the Soul, and affects all that look on; for 'tis the Glory of a Man to pass by a Matter.

If possible, then Gentlemen, use your Victory with that Temper, Modesty, and generous Courtesie, as becomes Christians, Neighbours and Friends, who are or may be mistaken——Remember and remember not; remember what has been, to prevent its Return; but never remember it to resent it, or to retort it; never think of it when you buy or sell; never pass by your Neighbour's Shop, for his being against you, never omit doing an Act either of Kindness or Charity, much less offer an Injury on this Account to any one.

I shall not descend to Particulars, the QUEEN Her self is your Pattern, Her Majesty has begun the Exhortation in the Affair of *Scotland*, and I shall pursue it on that Subject also; but I hope, you will neither think the Caution useless or unreasonable here.

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#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

This Day is Publish'd,

THE *Dissenters* vindicated; or, a short View of the present State of the Protestant Religion in *Britain*, as it is now profess'd in the Episcopal Church in *England*, the Presbyterian Church in *Scotland*, and the Dissenters in both. In Answer to some Reflections in Mr. Webster's two Books publish'd in *Scotland*. Printed in the Year, 1767.

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